VOLUME XV. NEW YORK, APRIL 17, 1890. NUMBER 381.

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IN ENGLAND.

First: I HEAR THAT YOU'RE ENGAGED.

Second (*excitedly*): REALLY? ARE YOU *sure?* TO *whom?* OH, I *must* GO AND SEE MAMMA ABOUT IT. (*Rushes out*).

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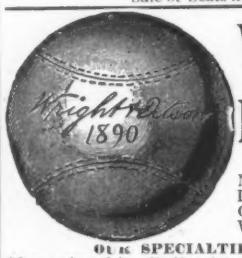

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VOLUME XV. · LIFE · NUMBER 381.

SONNET.

TO THE "WOLF AT THE DOOR."

By a Hungry Poet.

O WOLF, I do not dread
thee as of yore,
Time was when I
would tremble in
my shoes
At sight of thee—when lo!
my pity'ng Muse
Brought me wherewith to
drive thee from the door.
And since at last, O wolf,
my waning store
Has lured thee back, she
will not now refuse
My invocation. So I cannot
choose
But cry "Help! Wolf!" that
she may come once more.
Mine is a Muse that listens
with disdain
To any call save that of appe-
tite;
And till thou came'st all my prayers
were vain,
For while my purse was full, my brain
was light.
Therefore, O wolf, I welcome thee
again
To speed the Muse—that I may dine
to-night.

Oliver Herford.

NO CHANCE FOR ARGUMENT.

YOUNG HIGHFLY: Tamagno, the opera singer, receives $2,000 a night, and tips hotel waiters with one-cent pieces. What do you think of that?

OLD HARDSENSE: He's got more brains than young fellows who receive $2,000 a year, and tip hotel waiters with fifty-cent pieces.

FITTING A TITLE.

SHE (*facetiousy*): I suppose you call your horse Cupid, because he's such a love of a horse?

HE: Not exactly. You see he's blind.

ON BOARD A RECORD SMASHER.

FORWARD WATCH: Eight bells, and all's well.

SEASICK OLD LADY: He wouldn't say so if he knew how badly I felt.

CANDOR.

"WELL, can't you decide? It never takes me more than a minute to make up my mind!"

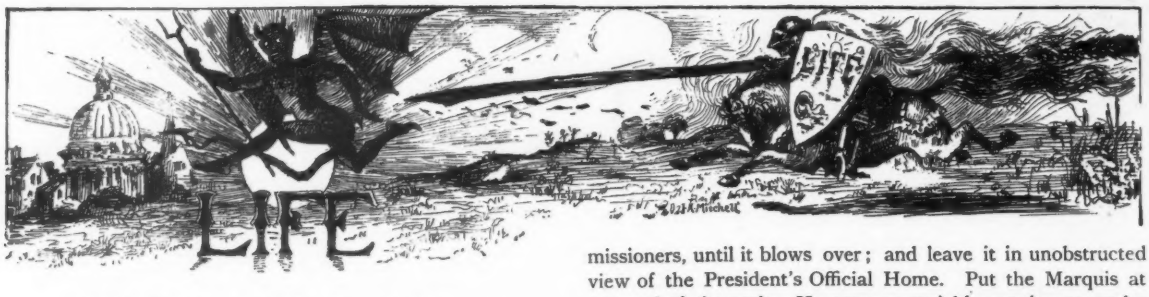
"I'm not surprised, my dear. It shouldn't take anyone more than a minute to make up your mind."

A MAN OF LETTERS—Mr. Mieczysobjielwisnivwiecki.

THE WORLD'S FAIR—But the people in it aren't.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE—In the s——p.

"WHY, MAMA, A HOUSE ISN'T A CASTLE!"
"NO, DEAR."
"THEN, WHY DID PA SAY THAT 'A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE?"
"BECAUSE, MEN NEVER LIVE IN CASTLES NOWADAYS."



"While there's Life there's Hope."

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WORD comes from Washington of an incendiary motion toward putting up a statue of Lafayette in Lafayette Park, either in the stead of the famous equestrian statue of General Jackson there located, or between Jackson's statue and the White House. It ought not to be done. It is interesting to learn, as doubtless it is true, that Lafayette Park is one of the places in Washington that had the honor of being named by George Washington himself. The park was well named, and there was probably none among General Washington's acquaintances whom it could have been more appropriately named for. But that is not a sufficient reason for putting General Jackson out of the park, or even for putting up a Lafayette between him and the White House. While Jackson lived and was in his prime, no one was able to intervene successfully between him and the White House when he was moving that way. No one, not even Lafayette, should be suffered to do it, now that he is dead. That General Washington did not name the park for Jackson is nothing to the point. General Washington had not the advantage of his acquaintance. There is no telling what he might have named after Jackson if he had known him. Many irreverent persons have joked about the equestrian statue in question. It has been compared to a rocking-horse, and even so astute an authority as the late Mr. Thackeray poked some pleasant fun at it, but it has stood where it stands for nearly forty years—long enough to be identified with its site, and with the front of the White House, in the minds of nine-tenths of the living people who have ever seen either. When Clark Mills made the statue all the wise men insisted that it could not stand.

* * *

IT has stood "first-rate," and the American people set great store by it, partly because it is "General Jackson," and partly because it is characteristic of the man it represents, in being an "impossibility" performed. Leave it alone, Messrs. Commissioners, until it blows over; and leave it in unobstructed view of the President's Official Home. Put the Marquis at one end of the park. He was an amiable gentleman, and a true and useful friend to America; but after all, he wasn't quite the man to send General Jackson on his travels, or to stand conspicuously in his light.

* * *

THE attempts of the urbane newspaper correspondent to turn Mr. Murat Halstead out of the editorial chair of the Cincinnati *Commercial* seem to be attended with very limited success. Where the editor owns the majority of the stock in his journal it takes a power of writing to get him out, even though he does a large part of it himself.

* * *

THEY tell it for a true story, that the nickel-in-the-slot device was in use in the temples of ancient Egypt to sell holy water. It seem as if there was nothing really new under the canopy, except Elliot Shepard.

* * *

LAST year it was Tanner, this year it is hides. The savor of leather is frequent, it seems, when there is a Republican hitch. Tanner says now that it was the making of him to be left off, and that he has prospered greatly ever since. Say, Mr. McKinley! Why not try a hair of the same remedy for hides?

* * *

THE *World* is the first of our local contemporaries to begin a crusade against the rottenness in New York's police department. The rottenness has been there, is there, and every one, the newspapers included, has known it, but the newspapers are so dependent on the police for news that they have always been afraid to go into this subject with much earnestness or energy. The fear of being "beaten" in securing news is a tremendous bugbear to a newspaper, and on that account the *World* deserves the more credit for its courage. All that it has to do to be forgiven for any shortage of news is to take the public into its confidence and say, "Bear with us a little. For a time we may not be able to give you much news *from* the police authorities, but we will give you a great deal of news *about* the police authorities. Instead of telling you interesting stories of Inspector Byrnes's detective exploits, we will tell you his methods of dealing with criminals. Instead of telling you about Inspector Williams's bravery, we will tell you how he made his money." If the *World* does this it will find helpers from unexpected quarters to aid in its investigations, and we venture to say it will lose nothing in circulation.

A SPRING EXHIBITION.

Boston girl, who has never seen a turkey before: YOU NAUGHTY CHICKEN, PUT DOWN YOUR CLOTHES!

IN THE VERNACULAR.

"HELLO, Jack, where are you living, now?"

"I'm boarding with a widow lady on Madison Avenue. Where are you living?"

"O, I'm the guest of a widower gentleman with two daughter ladies and one son gentleman—same avenue."

'RAH FOR PAPA.

"WAS Washington a polished writer?"

"Well, he used to knock the king's English silly."

A REVOLTING TALE.

QUOTH the waiter
"What is yours, sir?"
Said the guest, "I'll have a pie."
Returned the waiter, bye and bye,
"Custard, lemon,
Apple, pumpkin,
Peach or mince, sir, will you try?"
Guest, facetious:—
"Give me currant,
Alternating currant pie."
Vanished waiter hurriedlye,
Soon returned he
With the currant—
Alternating currant pie.
First a currant,
Then a fly,
'Neath the crust alternate lie.
Perished waiter
Horriblye. *Frank McLees.*

AUCTIONEER'S NOTICE:—To go under the hammer, a fine assortment of carpet tacks.

A NEW YORK shoe-maker is reported to be making mocassins on the Last of the Mohicans.

BOOKISHNESS

LIVING BY FORMULÆ.

One feeling of the "wild joys of living—the leaping from rock to rock," is better than the "muscular Christianity" literature which our time has produced. I am afraid that the profession of letters interferes with the elemental feelings of life; and I am afraid, too, that in the majority of cases this interference is not justified by its results.—From "Dreamthorp."

IT is a good thing that those delightful old essays of Alexander Smith are soon to be reprinted in this country, and that a new generation may read the clear and charming style of one who wrote the English of Addison and Hawthorne. The text alone is from his acute discourse on "Men of Letters"—a calm analysis of the subjective side of literary life. With directness he goes to the "interior of the citadel" and shows the trade of letters resting on the journeyman, until, in course of time, "the inner man becomes stained with ink, like blotting paper."

This is the core of the absurdity and grotesqueness which a clear-eyed outsider is apt to find in "literary coteries," "societies," or "centres." He cannot understand why men and women, who write, should want to meet together to exchange the emotions and impressions of their ink-stained hearts. And the thing which they affect to know most about is "life,"—as though they alone had a broad and lucid view of its phenomena!

If the man of action listens to their talk he soon discovers that they are merely exchanging formulæ about life, imagining that they have grasped the science,—just as a school-boy who has learned the theories of geometry believes that he has mastered the inner truths of mathematics.

From these men come all manner of pessimism, despondency, and uncharitableness. Their formulæ do not agree with the facts of life, and they conclude that something is wofully wrong with the latter. They miss the "wild joys of living," and also the very moderate joys of a well-regulated existence.

* * *

NOTES.—Sudents of language and style will find in William Morris's "Tale of the House of the Wolfings" (Roberts Bros.), some wonderful experiments in the use of old Saxon words, in their original meanings. The prose is forceful, original, and poetic in the best sense—that is, full of suggestive imagery. One may like it better than the hexameters into which the poetry of the volume is put. The whole work is one to attract the lovers of virile literature.

Lafcadio Hearne's "Two Years in the French West Indies" (Harper's), is poetic prose of a very different kind; it is Gallicised English that is often almost hysterical. Yet these Martinique sketches are picturesque and effective, and far away from the conventional book of travel.

In "God in His World" (Harper's), the fine body of young men who are beginning to revolt against a purely scientific religion, will discover a great deal to satisfy the eager desire they are manifesting for a religion of elevated feeling and idealism.

The third volume of C. A. Fyffe's "History of Modern Europe" (Holt), is a most concise review of the stirring events which completely changed the relations of European Powers during the thirty years, from the revolution of 1848 to the Treaty of Berlin. *Droch.*

ONE of the most attractive volumes of the season is "Pastels in Prose," just issued by Harper Brothers. The many illustrations by Mr. Henry W. McVickar are exquisitely drawn and add immensely to the interest of the book. They are charming inventions, daintily executed, but always with a decisive touch. The result is an exceptionally brilliant little volume. Mr. McVickar should do more work of this kind, as he has the American field almost wholly to himself.

NEW BOOKS.

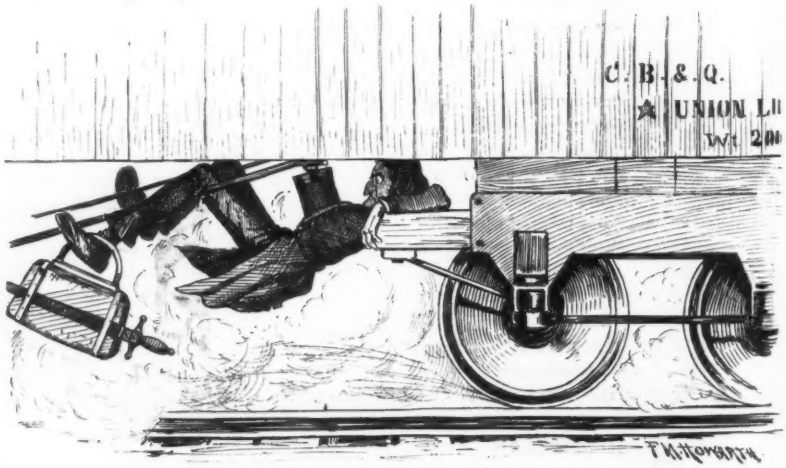
PASTEL IN PROSE. Translated by Stuart Merrill, with illustrations by Henry W. McVickar, and an introduction by W. D. Howells. New York: Harper Brothers.

Little Saint Elizabeth and other Stories. By Frances Hodgson Burnett. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Practical Superiority. By Bates Torrey. New York: Fowler, Wells & Company.

Delicate Feasting. By Theodore Child. New York: Harper Brothers.

The Red Mustang. By William O. Stoddard. New York: Harper Brothers.



THE STARRING TOUR.

Fakir, the Tragedian: HA, HOW FORTUNATE I AM! JUST THINK OF THE REST OF THE COMPANY FOOTING IT HOME OVER THE TIES, WEARY AND FOOTSORE, AND WITHOUT SHELTER!

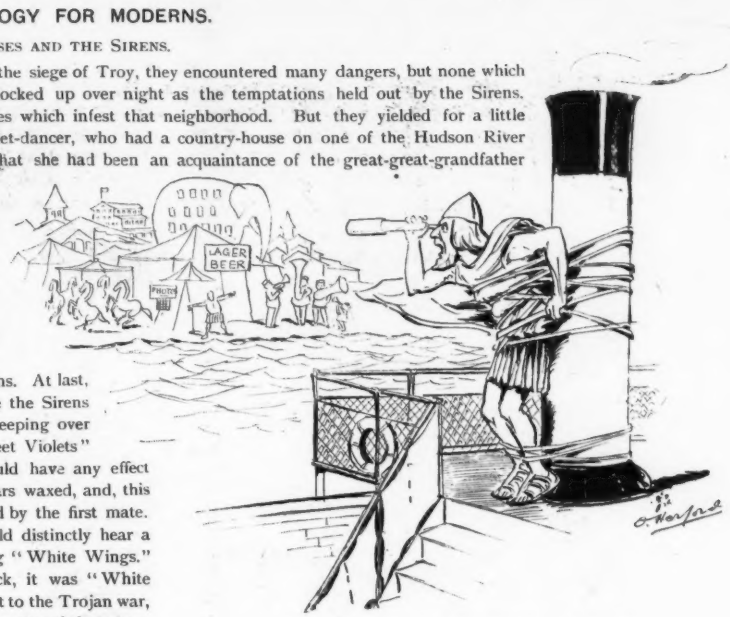
MYTHOLOGY FOR MODERNS.

Ulysses and the Sirens.

When Ulysses and his men returned from the siege of Troy, they encountered many dangers, but none which came so near getting the whole crowd locked up over night as the temptations held out by the Sirens. They successfully passed by Albany and the harpies which infest that neighborhood. But they yielded for a little while to the blandishments of Circe, a retired ballet-dancer, who had a country-house on one of the Hudson River islands. It leaked out one day in conversation, that she had been an acquaintance of the great-great-grandfather of Ulysses, and from that on she took a genuine interest in the grizzled warrior, and told him that as he continued his journey he must beware of the Sirens.

This was her plan to enable the band to escape this danger. Ulysses was first to plug the ears of all his men with wax. Then they, in turn, were to fasten him securely with ropes to the spinnaker boom, and under no circumstances were they to release him until they had passed the home of the Sirens. At last, the little fleet came in sight of Coney Island, where the Sirens dwelt, and faint sounds of delicious music came creeping over the sea. It seemed a sort of cross between "Sweet Violets" and "Johnny, Get Your Gun," but before it could have any effect Ulysses ordered all hands on deck to have their ears waxed, and, this accomplished, allowed himself to be properly secured by the first mate.

They came nearer the island, and Ulysses could distinctly hear a steam organ attached to a merry-go-round playing "White Wings." If there was anything that made Ulysses homesick, it was "White Wings!" It had been his favorite air before he went to the Trojan war, and he longed to go ashore and toy with the man who owned the organ. Finally he heard the voice of a Siren.



FINALLY HE HEARD THE VOICE OF A SIREN.

"Yere y'are, now! Finest photygraphts on th' Islan'! Take you and yer whole crew f'r only twenty-five cents. Yere y'are! Greates' chance in yer life!"

Ulysses wanted to have his picture taken to send back to Circe, and was greatly tempted to yield to the voice of the Siren, but he thought of the danger and controlled himself. Then another voice charmed his ears.

SHE HAD BEEN AN ACQUAINTANCE OF THE GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER OF ULYSSES.

"Nice, hot Frankfurters! Same's Mr. Vanderbilt an' Mr. Astor eat every day. Hot and sizzling, now! Cooked while you wait! Only ten cents! Yere y'are, now!"

This was almost too much for Ulysses. Not since he left Circe and her French cook had he tasted anything better than salt junk, duff, or scouse, and he longed for the sizzling Frankfurter. But what is this other voice?

"Right this way, gents! Yere y'are! Fines' beer in the whole world. Cool and juicy, an' no collar. You may travel far an' wide, from the pine-clad hills of Maine to the sunny san's of San Francisco, but yu'll never find better beer an' more of it, than right here!"

This was almost too much for Ulysses. The salt air made him thirsty, and he knew exactly the spot where a good glass of cold beer would do the most good. He yelled and cursed his crew even more than was his habit, but they paid no attention to him on account of the wax in their ears.

"Now, then, step right in, gents! One dime enables you to see the whole show! Finest collection of curiosities in the world! Only genyuwine Zulus now on exhibition in this country! The handsomest bearded lady in existence! Terrific combat every ten minutes between Elliot F. Shepard and the fool-killer! Only original sea-serpent, just captured off the coast of Barren Island! Remember, gents, one dime admits you to all parts of the entertainment!"

For years Ulysses longed to see a sea-serpent. It piqued his marine curiosity, and he raged and struggled and yelled and cursed, but all to no effect. The crew were playing seven-up on the deck and were deaf to his entreaties. The good ships sped on until only could be heard faintly the Sirens saying:

"Only genuine Rhode Island clam-bake!"

"Take you and yer lady seated in hammock fer twenty-five cents!"

"Three rides for a quarter, one for a dime!"

"Ice-cold sody, now, gents!"

At last they were abreast of Far Rockaway and beyond the reach of the Sirens' voices. Ulysses was released, and the crew received permission to wash their ears. And so ended one of the greatest dangers of the homeward voyage of Ulysses.

Metcalfe.

"WE SHALL MEET ON THAT B

RAY.

ON THAT BEAUTIFUL SHORE."

STRAY BITS.

MR. STEELE MACKAYE has had the temerity to bring out in New York a five-hour play with the scene laid in Chicago. New York is a bit touchy on the subject of Chicago these days, and nothing but the fact that most of the characters are Chicago villains of the regular Chicago type saved the piece from instant and utter damnation.

* * *

MR. DALY'S season having come to an end, Miss Rosina Vokes has taken possession of his theater and is giving a triple bill. Miss Vokes's annual return to New York has come to be as much expected, and, to quote our old friend *Ko-Ko*, as welcome as the flowers that bloom in the Spring, tra-la. The performance includes two new pieces, "Percy Pendragon" and "Wig and Gown," and the familiar "Double Lesson."

* * *

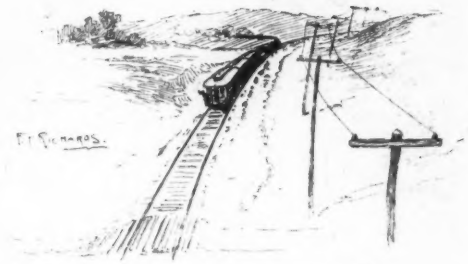
SPRING has come. We know it because Mr. P. T. Barnum has brought his lions and his elephants and his "taggers" to New York. The weather bureau may bear false witness and imprudent robins may make false calculations about Spring in New York, but when Mr. Barnum displays his golden chariots and gayly clad equestrian people in the Grand Annual Torchlight Procession we know that Spring has come, and that settles it for good and all.

* * *

MUSICIANS are not noted for their practical good sense, and

IN DOUBT.

"I'D GIVE FIF'Y CENTSH TER KNOW IF THEM'S JIM JAMSH OR SIGNS OF EARLY SPRING."



THE DRIVER WAS DEAF AND DIDN'T HEAR THE TRAIN COMING.

FORESIGHT.

She : OH, HORRORS !
He : WHAT IS IT, DARLING ?
She : I FORGOT ALL ABOUT POOR PUSSY, LEFT IN THE HOUSE ALONE, AND WE OFF FOR A WEEK SHE'LL STARVE.
He : O, I REMEMBERED HER. I LEFT A CAN OF CONDENSED MILK ON THE KITCHEN TABLE WITH A SARDINE OPENER BESIDE IT.

when professional musicians join together in a business movement they are more apt to go astray than is the average trades-union. The fight against the organ-grinders and the defeat of the musicians was one good illustration of this fact, and the latest is the pig-headed opposition to the admission to the United States of Strauss's orchestra. Popular concerts with good music are too infrequent in this country, and the importation of the Strauss orchestra bids fair to give New York a delightful musical feature during the coming Summer. Therefore it is devoutly to be hoped that the American musicians who are so anxious to bar them out will be beaten in their effort. *Metcalfe.*

GOOD TRAINING.

LANDLADY (*to actor*) : And you are going to leave me ? "Yes. I only meant to stay until I perfected myself in the part I am going to play this evening."

"What part is that, pray ?"

"The 'lean and hungry Cassius.'"

BEAR, AND FORBEAR.

THE KINDERGARTEN.

UNDER the palms at Smithson's ball
In a corner dim of the lamplit hall,
I sat with Smithson's daughter
Louise, a bud not out of her teens,
An innocent babe who didn't know beans,
So I went to work and taught her.

Lesson first was a tender look
Into eyes as clear as a limpid brook,
Lesson two was the bliss
Of pressing fingers that scarcely stirred,
Lesson third was a whispered word,
And lesson fourth was a kiss.

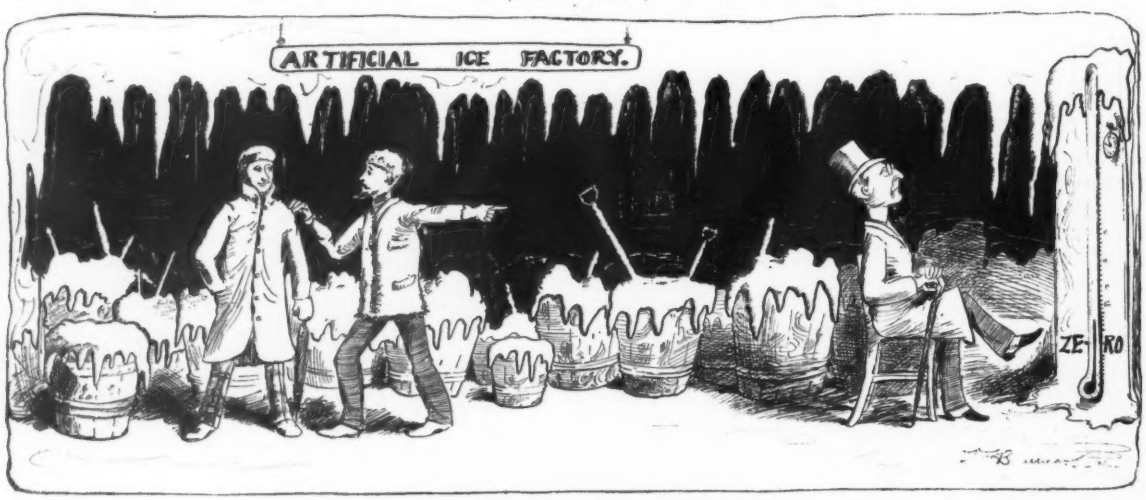
And would you believe it, so well she learned
That when from the card room I returned,
Rage almost turned me yellow,
For there she sat on the very same seat,
With her angel face and her blushes sweet,
Being taught by another fellow. *M. E. S.*

SOUTH MISSOURI PREACHER: Now, my brethren, having disposed of that ar lyin' hypocritical cuss, who runs the Methodist Church across the way, I'll continue my discourse on "peace on earth, good will to men."

FROM THE EIFFEL TOWER.

She: JOHN, WHAT IS THAT TALL THING RISING OVER THERE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE RUE DE RIVOLI?

He (who has traveled): IT MUST BE OUR HOTEL BILL.



NO DANGER OF AN ICE FAMINE.

Visitor: YOU MANUFACTURE EXCELLENT ICE, BUT I SEE NO MACHINERY. HOW DO YOU GET THE TEMPERATURE SO LOW?

Proprietor: S-S-S-T-! I HIRE A BEACON STREET BOSTONIAN TO SPEND HALF AN HOUR ON THE PREMISES EVERY DAY.

AVT SCISSORS AVT NVLLVS

BUT HE WAS A POET.

"A POET loved a star."
What donkeys poets are!
If he had been more human,
He would have loved a woman!
—*Somerville Journal.*

IT having been rumored that a prominent Detroiter had been buncoed out of $400 in New York city, a friend called upon him and told him what was said, and asked him if there was any truth in the report. "Not an iota, sir!" was the indignant response. "It's singular how the report started." "So it is, and if I could trace it back I'd make the liar eat his words." "I thought it was odd." "So it is. The only thing I can think of to give rise to such a story is the fact that I met a young man in New York who said he had drawn two valuable books in a lottery. He offered me one of them if I would go along and get it. I went and found they had a lottery drawing in the same room. I bought $400 worth of tickets and drew a Waterbury watch, but I was never lucky in such things. The idea that I could be taken in by such a bunco man! I'd like to get my hands on some of these fellows who start such lying reports!"—*Detroit Free Press.*

MR. SIM (*hunting for a new boarding house*): "Is the lady of the house in?"

SERVANT: "No; she's gone for a policeman."

"What are the terms for board here?"

"Cash."

"I mean how much a week?"

"Ten an' fifteen a week, 'cording to room."

"I presume she makes a reduction for people who stay a month or two."

"I don't know. No one ever stays that long."—*New York Weekly.*

MRS. FIGG: "You little wretch, you have been fighting again, I know you have. What was it all about?"

TOMMY: "It was just this way. You see, Jimmy Brown and me put in our pennies together to buy apples, an' I was to have the cores of what was bought in the afternoon, and he was to have the cores of what was bought in the morning."

MRS. FIGG: "I don't see any unfairness about that."

TOMMY: "Yes; but in the afternoon he went and bought bananers."—*New York Mercury.*

RAGGLES: "I hear you were almost drowned the other day."

SWIZZY: "Yep!"

RAGGLES: "How did yeh feel?"

SWIZZY: "I don't know which was the worst, swallowin' the water, or havin' the bath."—*Grip.*

FRIEND: "You have five daughters. Have you never wished for a son?"

MOTHER: "Often, even if he were only a son-in-law."—*Tit Bits.*

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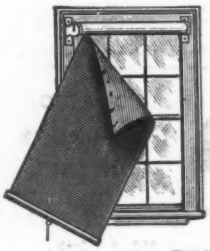

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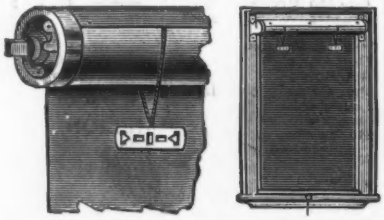

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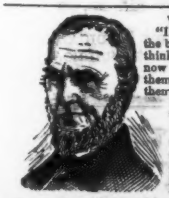

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And you act and appear like a woman forsaken."

Said Mary to Sarah:

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For nobody knows how acutely I suffer.
I am sick unto death and well nigh desperation,
With female disorders and nervous prostration,
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And life hardly seems worth the trouble of breathing."

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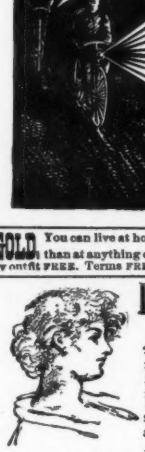

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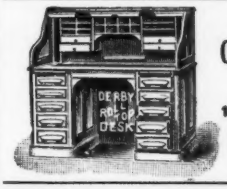

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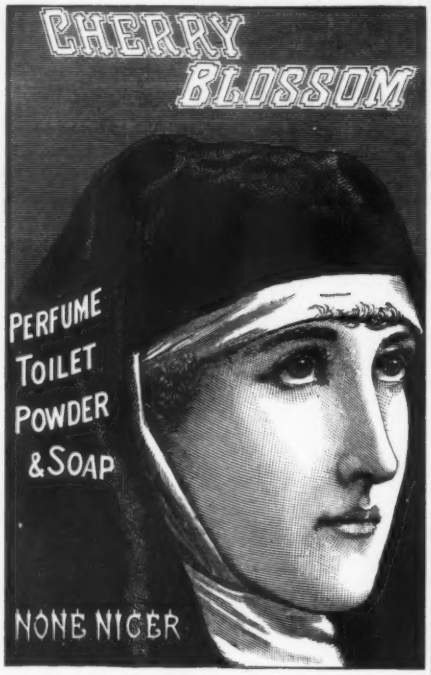

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